

# THE WIDE-AWAKE CIRCLE

Boys' and Girls' Department

**Rules For Young Writers.**  
1—Write plainly on one side of the paper only, and number the pages.  
2—Use pen and ink, not pencil.  
3—Short story prizes will only be given for originality.  
4—Write your name, age and address plainly at the bottom of the story.

## WIDE-AWAKE POETRY.

**In Winter.**  
The pleasure of the bracing air;  
The pleasure of the landscape;  
The white snow glistening everywhere;  
Is just to sit before the fire.

**How grateful is the cheery blaze**  
Of burning logs or glowing coals!  
How full of pictures are the flames,  
And how the warmth delights the soul!

**Let others face the biting cold**  
With all the pep it may inspire,  
The pleasure of the idle thought  
Is just to sit before the fire.

**It's pleasant to rest and dream**  
On sunny days, when it is warm;  
It's pleasant, when the storm is on,  
To be sheltered from the storm.

**A good book helps to pass the time,**  
If doing nothing tends to tire,  
But lazy folks ask nothing more  
Than just to sit before the fire.

**Two Little Fir Trees.**  
There were two little fir trees that happened to grow  
In the shade of the forest wide,  
And one was a good tree and one was bad.

**He never would listen, he never would care**  
The words of the motherly tree,  
And it wasn't long before he was  
As crooked as a crooked tree.

**The good little fir tree delighted to hear**  
The counsel of the motherly tree,  
From the myrtle lips of the motherly tree,  
"Strike down your crooked tree!"

**There are wonderful things that may happen**  
To a "C" tree that's perfect and fair.  
The bad little tree was sulky and sulked  
And he said a fine tree never grows.

**In such a deep shade as that tangled-up wood**  
He was bound to be crooked, he knew,  
His needles withered, he blighted at heart,  
And his fate at the end was dire.

**For they pulled him up bodily, root and branch**  
And they used him to kindle the fire!  
But oh, the good fir tree, he never had  
A chance to be crooked like his brother.

**And once he could believe such a thing**  
The children discovered his place in the wood,  
And they carried him home, and what do you think?  
"Twas the happiest lot that could be!"

**Why, they made him a Christmas tree!**  
—Nora Archibald Smith.

## WINNERS OF PRIZE BOOKS.

- 1—Beatrice Cathcart of Jewett City—Tabitha's Story.
- 2—Melvin Zeller of Warrenville—Our Pilots in the Air.
- 3—Clara C. Carpenter of Columbia—Tabitha in Ivy Hall.
- 4—Joseph Mrochowski of Colchester—The Motion Picture Comrade Along the Orinoco.
- 5—Christopher Healy of South Wind—Connecticut Boys in the Western Reserve.
- 6—Thomas E. Daven of Plainfield—Little Prudy's Dolly Dimple.
- 7—Annie M. Traver of East Longmeadow—Little Prudy.

## LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

**Rose Wadsworth of Leonard's Bridge:** Received your book, and thank you very much for it. I have started to read it, and find it very interesting.

**Clara C. Carpenter of Columbia:** I received the story book you sent me named The Cabin in the Clearing. I have read it and it is very interesting. I thank you very much for it.

**Thomas E. Daven of Plainfield:** I received your book, and thank you very much for it. I was much pleased with it. I hope to send more stories to win another book. Wish you a Happy New Year.

## LETTERS WRITTEN BY WIDE-AWAKES.

**Dear Uncle Jed:** Here is a story of a fine old stag who has had a race for life. The wolves have tracked his steps for many days and he has fled at the top of his speed.

**But in spite of all that he could do**  
They gained upon him.  
He thought of the lake, just as he was,  
When he was at his heels he reached it. He leaped upon the ice and it broke under him. He is safe, for they cannot swim. The wolves will not have a venison for dinner today, and their long run has all been for nothing.

Glascow. LENA FOURNIER.

## A Christmas Surprise.

**Dear Uncle Jed:** I just got a letter from Uncle Ned, and Ethel joyfully to her mother. In her hand she held an open letter.

"What does Uncle Ned write?" asked her mother.

"He won't tell me what it is until Christmas," Ethel replied. "And there are two more letters before Christmas come."

She looked at the letter and then at her mother. Ethel had been so excited about the letter, while her mother secretly deposited it in some place where she could find it. She watched her father come into the house with well laden pockets.

At last Christmas eve came, and Ethel's mother and her went to the door, and opened the door, and this is what Ethel saw.

A beautiful Christmas tree in the center of the room, with many decorations, candles, and many presents on it; also on the floor near the tree. The room was decorated with beautiful lights and decorations.

Seated around the tree were many children from the village, who had come there secretly, when Ethel had been absent from the house. They were all very happy and excited.

And there near the tree stood her Uncle Ned. Oh how glad Ethel was to see him. So this was the surprise he had written.

—Nora Archibald Smith.

## UNCLE JED'S TALK TO WIDE-AWAKES.

Most of you children have probably had much pleasure in reading and receiving picture postcards, especially during Christmas time. How many of you realize that a great number of them are sent through the mail every year? No one has undertaken to count them, but it is estimated that there were 25,000,000 greetings sent in the United States at the last Christmas.

That would have meant more than ten apiece for every man, woman and child in the state of Connecticut, and a half apiece for the average of a half million dollars.

While the sending of such a great number of Christmas cards has developed in recent years the custom is an old one, and it seems to have come from the "Christmas pieces," which were popular in the 18th century, especially in England, and consisted of sheets of writing paper, decorated by drawings or colored pictures on which Christmas compositions were written concerning their attainments and indicating a modest way that suitable rewards would be pleasing.

The first real Christmas card seems to have been the idea of Sir Henry Cole and was issued in London in 1843. It was printed and colored by hand and cost about a half penny.

That year about a thousand might have been sold. The idea appealed and soon there were several publishers, the subjects invariably being of a Biblical nature and the drawings of genuine merit. They were hand colored and retailed for about a penny each.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### FIELD BROS.

Members Consolidated Stock Exchange of New York

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF A STOCK AND BOND BROKERAGE OFFICE

AT 34 SHETUCKET STREET

Telephone 2080 NORWICH, CONN.

## BOYS AND GIRLS!

### JOIN THE CHELSEA BOYS' AND GIRLS' SAVERS' CLUB

SAVE 10 CENTS EACH WEEK

EACH MEMBER WILL RECEIVE A CLUB BUTTON

PRIZE CONTEST—A friend of Boys and Girls has offered Bank Books of \$5.00, \$2.50, \$1.00, for the best three papers written by Boys and Girls on "WHY BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD HAVE BANK BOOKS AND SAVE MONEY." Papers to be presented during NATIONAL THRIFT WEEK, JANUARY 17—23, AT

## The Chelsea Savings Bank

JUDGES — Supervisor of Clubs, Miss Cogswell; Scout Executive, Benton; Y. M. C. A. Boys' Director, Davis.

to you about a happy Christmas eve.

Shivering with cold, and tired and hungry, a dirty white and black dog stood near a tenement house, whimpering pitifully. Footsteps and voices made him prick up his ears and the next minute a pair of boys' arms were around his neck and a kind voice said to him: "Come in, my little friend, and we will have a good dinner."

He came in with his new friends into the house which he gladly accepted. Jim Collins and Annie, his sister, aged 13 and 12, were two children who were living in two rooms in an old tenement house on the first floor, the rent being paid by the scanty earnings of the two.

Suddenly among the continuous shrieking of the elevators, we heard the buzz of a motor above us, and looking up, we saw for a second the dim face of the aviator who had just taken to the air, as he sped upward.

After admiring other objects, among which was the Statue of Liberty, with its head of justice and liberty, and the Woolworth building, we saw at our heels and then proceeded homeward.

JOSEPH MROZINSKI, Colchester.

## Fred's First Skating Lesson.

**Dear Uncle Jed:** Fred was a little boy about nine years old. His mother had a pair of new skates for Christmas.

He was so anxious to learn how to skate that he could not wait for his Christmas. He took his skates and started to the pond.

When he got to the pond there were many of his schoolmates there. They all had skates and were skating. Fred looked at them and all started running after him. So you see, Fred was very happy.

Dear Uncle Jed, as this is my first story I have ever written, I hope all the Wide-Awakes will enjoy reading it. WILBUR E. VARS, Age 11, Plainfield.

## A Christmas Party.

**Dear Uncle Jed:** It is a long time since I have written to the Wide-Awakes circle, so I thought I would write and tell you about a Christmas party.

We were Christmas eve and the three Moore children, Betty, Doty and Tom, were very happy.

They had invited their friends to come. They had spent the day in trimming the Christmas tree, the dining room and the parlor.

Then they put a gift for each guest wrapped up in funny looking packages on the Christmas tree.

After the gifts were taken, the mother, who was busy making cakes, sandwiches, candy and all those things that are good for a Christmas party.

And now when all those things are done, if you happen to look in the parlor, you will see the children waiting for their friends to arrive. Once in a while you will see Betty, Doty or Tom, running to the door to see if any of their friends are coming.

When most of their friends were there, Tom began to frown because Johnny, who was his best friend, was not there. Tom was so afraid that he was not coming. Just then the doorbell rang and Tommy's face brightened for who could be but Johnny, and that is who it was.

The children enjoyed themselves playing games for an hour, when Betty suggested that it was time to take the presents off the tree. Then what excitement there was! One by one they were running around the tree looking for a tag with his or her name on it. When they found it the next thing was to open it and see what it was. Then the joyful shouting when they found it was just what they wanted. The children spent another hour admiring each other's gifts. Then the children's mother took in the presents and started to look in the parlor.

Then she was in the parlor and saw that the children were waiting for their friends to come. They had spent the day in trimming the Christmas tree, the dining room and the parlor.

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CONNECTICUT AGGIES BASKETBALL SQUAD  
Front Row: left to right—Phil Dean, forward; Skinner Lord, back; Louis Alexander, forward; Sam Putnam, back; Johnny Bask, forward.  
Back Row: left to right—Manager Harold Jackson; Billy O'Brien, forward; Freddy Stull, center; Bill Makofski, back; Harry Krasow, forward; Coach Tasker.

## Conn. "Aggies" Defeated By Wesleyan

After winning from West Point, Harvard, Brown and Lebanon Valley the Connecticut Aggies five, reported to be the fastest college basketball team in the East, suffered its first defeat on Saturday evening when the Wesleyan college five routed them 20 to 19 at Hawley Army at Storrs.

It was the other side's game from start to finish, the score first balancing in favor of the Wesleyanites, then the

Blue and White and then repeating. At no time was either machine over four points in the lead, while the score stood 9 to 9 at the end of the first half.

The Red and Black quintet, working in perfect harmony and with the advantage of being on the aggressive end of the encounter, were able at all times to hold up its own end of the performance, taking advantage of the

first basket after Wesleyan dropped the ball. Moore, at center, was the Red and Black's best bet, playing a fast, even game. He contributed twelve out of the twenty points for Wesleyan, eight of these through fouls. "Hooks" Conway worked at right guard as well as a big aid to Wesleyan. He went into every play, and he contributed two baskets from the field.

Captain Alexander was high point setter for the Aggies' caging two points from the field and eleven from the 15-foot line. The close guarding game resulted in many fouls being called on both quintets.

Moore broke the tie in the first minute of play and Wesleyan kept the ball in their own territory until Krasow and Lord went in and forced the issue. Speedy work by both machines developed as the half neared to close.

In the second half Putnam dropped the first basket after Wesleyan possession passed up the floor. Moore evaded this up with a double counter, however. A series of free tries followed by a successful bombardment of the Wesleyan basket from underneath to no purpose, brought the score to an even fifteen. Both quintets redoubled their effort to break the deadlock and until the final whistle it was uncertain at all times which five would emerge the victor. The summary:

Wesleyan 20 Conn. Aggies 19

Davenport RF Alexander LF

Robertson LF Krasow, Back

Moore C Makofski LF

Conway RG Lord LF

Parson RF Putnam LF

Score, Wesleyan 20, Conn. Aggies 19.

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